

# National Journal

December 3, 1823....No. 1.

[EXTRA.]

## EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS.

### LIST OF MEMBERS.

#### SENATE.

*From Maine*..... John Chandler,  
*New Hampshire*..... Samuel Bell,  
*Massachusetts*..... James Lloyd,  
*Connecticut*..... Henry W. Edwards,  
*Rhode Island*..... James D'Wolf,  
*Vermont*..... Wm. A. Palmer,  
*New-York*..... Rufus King,  
*New Jersey*..... Mahlon Dickerson,  
*Pennsylvania*..... Walter Lowrie,  
*Delaware*..... (Both vacant.)  
*Maryland*..... Edward Lloyd,  
*Virginia*..... James Barbour,  
*North Carolina*..... Nathaniel Macon,  
*South Carolina*..... John Gaillard, Pres't p. t.  
*Georgia*..... John Elliott,  
*Kentucky*..... Richard M. Johnson,  
*Tennessee*..... Andrew Jackson,  
*Ohio*..... Benjamin Ruggles,  
*Louisiana*..... James Brown,  
*Indiana*..... James Noble,  
*Mississippi*..... Thomas H. Williams,  
*Illinois*..... Jesse B. Thomas,  
*Alabama*..... William R. King,  
*Missouri*..... David Barton,

*John Holmes.*  
*John F. Parrott.*  
*Elijah Hunt Mills.*  
*James Lanman.*  
*Neheinah R. Knight.*  
*Horatio Seymour.*  
*Martin Van Buren.*  
*James M'Irvine.*  
*William Findlay.*  
*Samuel Smith.*  
*John Taylor.*  
*John Branch.*  
*Rob't Y. Hayne.*  
*Nicholas Ware.*  
*Isham Talbot.*  
*John Henry Eaton.*  
*Ethan A. Brown.*  
*Henry Johnson.*  
*Waller Taylor.*  
*David Holmes.*  
*Nimia Edwards.*  
*William Kelly.*  
*Thomas H. Benton.*

#### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

##### From Maine.

William Burleigh,  
 Joshua Cushman,  
 Ebenezer Herick,

David Kidder,  
 Enoch Lincoln,

Stephen Longfellow,  
 Jeremiah O'Brien.

##### From New Hampshire.

Arthur Livermore,  
 Aaron Matson,

William Plumer, Jr.  
 Thomas Whipple, Jr.

##### From Massachusetts.

Samuel C. Allen,  
 John Bailey,  
 Francis Baylies,  
 Benj. W. Crowninshield,  
 Henry W. Dwight,

Timothy Fuller,  
 Aaron Hobart,  
 Samuel Lathrop,  
 John Locke,

Jeremiah Nelson,  
 John Reed,  
 Jonas Sibley,  
 Daniel Webster.

##### From Rhode Island.

Job Durfee,

Samuel Eddy.

##### From Connecticut.

Azor Sterling,  
 Ebenezer Stoddard,

Gideon Tomlinson,  
 Samuel Whitman.

##### From Vermont.

William C. Crafts,  
 Rollin C. Mallary,

Charles Rich.

##### From New-York.

John W. Cady,  
 Churchill C. Cambreleng, Lemuel Jenkins,  
 Lot Clark, Samuel Lawrence,  
 Eliza Collins, Elisha Litchfield,  
 Hector Craig, Dudley Marvin,  
 Rowland Day, Henry C. Martindale,  
 Justin Dwinell, John J. Morgan,  
 Lewis Eaton, John Richards,  
 Charles A. Foot, Robert R. Rose,  
 Joel Frost, Peter Sharpe,  
 Moses Hayden, Henry R. Storrs,  
 John Herkimer,

James L. Hogboon,  
 John W. Taylor,  
 Egbert Ten Eyck,  
 Albert H. Tracy,  
 Jacob Tyson,  
 William Van Wyck,  
 Stephen Van Rensselaer,  
 Isaac Williams,  
 Isaac Wilson,  
 Silas Wood,  
 William Woods.

##### From New Jersey.

George Cassedy,  
 Lewis Condict,

Daniel Garrison,  
 George Holcombe,

James Matlack,

Samuel Swan.

##### From Pennsylvania.

James Allison,  
 Samuel Breck,  
 John Brown,  
 James Buchanan,  
 Samuel Edwards,  
 William Cox Ellis,  
 Patrick Farrelly,  
 John Findlay,  
 Walter Forward.

Robert Harris,  
 Joseph Hemphill,  
 Samuel D. Ingham,  
 George Kreamer,  
 Samuel McKeon,  
 Philip S. Markley,  
 Daniel H. Miller,  
 James S. Mitchell,  
 Thomas Patterson,

George Plumer,

Thomas J. Rogers,

Andrew Stewart,

John Todd,

Daniel Udree,

Isaac Wayne,

James Wilson,

Henry Wilson.

##### Delaware.

##### Louis McLane.

##### Maryland.

Peter Little,  
 Isaac McKim,  
 George E. Mitchell,

Raphael Neale,

John S. Spence,

Henry R. Warfield.

*Virginia.*  
 Joseph Johnson,  
 William S. Archer,  
 William Lee Ball,  
 Philip P. Barbour,  
 Burwell Bassett,  
 John Floyd,  
 Robert S. Garnett,

*North Carolina.*  
 Hutchins G. Burton,  
 Henry Conner,  
 John Culpeper,  
 Weldon N. Edwards,  
 Alfred M. Gatlin,

*South Carolina.*  
 Robert Campbell,  
 John Carter,  
 Joseph Gist,

*Georgia.*  
 Joel Abbot,  
 George Cary,  
 Thomas W. Cobb,  
 Henry Clay,  
 Richard Buckner,  
 Robert P. Henry,  
 Francis Johnson,

*Kentucky.*  
 John T. Johnson,  
 Robert Letcher,  
 Thomas Metcalfe,  
 Thomas Moore,

*Tennessee.*  
 Adam R. Alexander,  
 Robert Allen,  
 John Blair,

*Mississippi.*  
 Mordecai Bartley,  
 Philemon Beecher,  
 John W. Campbell,  
 James W. Gazlay,  
 Duncan M'Arthur,

*Louisiana.*  
 William L. Brent,  
 H. H. Gurley,

*Alabama.*  
 Jonathan Jennings,

*Illinois.*  
 William Prince,  
 Daniel P. Cook,

*Missouri.*  
 John M'Kee,  
 Gabriel P. Moore,

*Arkansas Territory.*..... Gabriel Richards,  
*Florida Territory.*..... Henry W. Conway,  
*Michigan Territory.*..... Richard K. Call.

#### Senate.

#### CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1st, 1823.

THE FIRST SESSION of the Eighteenth Congress, conformably to the Constitution of the United States, commenced this day at the City of Washington, and the Senate assembled.

The Hon. Mr. GAILLARD, President pro-tem. took the chair, and called the Senate to order, at 12 o'clock.

The following members answered to their name, on the roll being called by Mr. CUTTS, the Secretary of the Senate.

*From Maine.*—Mr. Chandler and Mr. Holmes.

*New Hampshire.*—Mr. Bell and Mr. Parrott.

*Massachusetts.*—Mr. Lloyd.

*Connecticut.*—Mr. Edwards and Mr. Lanman.

*Rhode Island.*—Mr. Knight.

*Vermont.*—Mr. Palmer and Mr. Seymour.

*New York.*—Mr. King and Mr. Van Buren.

*New Jersey.*—Mr. Dickerson and Mr. M'Irvine.

*Pennsylvania.*—Mr. Lowrie and Mr. Findlay.

*Maryland.*—Mr. Smith.

*Virginia.*—Mr. Barbour.

*North Carolina.*—Mr. Macon.

*South Carolina.*—Mr. Gaillard and Mr. Hayne.

*Georgia.*—Mr. Elliot.

*Kentucky.*—Mr. Talbot.

*Ohio.*—Mr. Ruggles.

*Louisiana.*—Mr. Brown and Mr. Johnson.

*Indiana.*—Mr. Noble and Mr. Taylor.

*Mississippi.*—Mr. Williams and Mr. Holmes.

*Illinois.*—Mr. Thomas.

*Missouri.*—Mr. Barton and Mr. Benton.

The usual orders for the appointment of chaplains, for supplying the members with newspapers, and for the appointment of joint committees on enrolled bills, were severally passed.

Messrs. BARBOUR and MACON were appointed a committee, jointly, with such as the House may appoint, to wait upon the President of the United States, and inform him of the organization of the two Houses, and of their readiness to receive any communication from him: and then

The Senate adjourned to 11 o'clock to-morrow.

## House of Representatives.

### CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

BEGUN and held at the Capitol in the City of Washington, in the District of Columbia, on Monday, the first day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-three, being the *First Session* of the EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS, under the Constitution of Government of the United States.

On which day, being that fixed by the Constitution for the meeting of Congress, the following members of the House of Representatives appeared and took their seats:

*From Maine.*—Messrs. Burleigh, Cushman, Herrick, Kidder Lincoln, O'Brien.

*From New Hampshire.*—Messrs. Harvey, Livermore, Matson, Plumer, Whipple.

*From Massachusetts.*—Messrs. Allen, Bailey, Baylies, Crowninshield, Dwight, Fuller, Hobart, Lathrop, Locke, Nelson, Reed, Sibley, Webster.

*From Rhode Island.*—Messrs. Durfee and Eddy.

*From Connecticut.*—Messrs. Barber, Foot, Sterling, Stoddard, Tomlinson, Whitman.

*From Vermont.*—Messrs. Bradley, Buck, Crafts, Mallary, Rich.

*From New York.*—Messrs. Cady, Cambreleng, Clark, Collins, Craig, Day, Dwinell, Eaton, Foote, Frost, Hayden, Hogeben, Jenkins, Litchfield, Marvin, Martindale, Richards, Rose, Sharpe, Storrs, Strong, Taylor, Ten Eyck, Tracy, Tyson, Van Wyck, Van Rensselaer, Williams, Wilson, Wood, Woods.

*From New Jersey.*—Messrs. Cassedy, Condict, Garrison, Holcombe, Matlack, Swan.

*From Pennsylvania.*—Messrs. Allison, Breck, Brown, Buchanan, Edwards, Elias, Farrelly, Findlay, Forward, Harris, Hemphill, Ingham, Kremer, McLean, Mitchell, Patterson, Plumer, Rogers, Todd, Udree, Wayne, Wilson.

*From Delaware.*—Mr. McLane.

*From Maryland.*—Messrs. Hayward, Kent, Lee, Little, McKim, Mitchell.

*From Virginia.*—Messrs. Alexander, Archer, Ball, P. P. Barbour, J. S. Barbour, Garnett, Johnson, Leftwich, McCoy, Mercer, Newton, A. Smith, W. Smith, Alex. Smyth, A. Stevenson, J. Stephenson, Tucker, Williams.

*From North Carolina.*—Messrs. Conner, Culpeper, Edwards, Gatlin, Hooks, Long, Mangum, Saunders, Spraight, Vance, Williams.

*From South Carolina.*—Messrs. Campbell, Gist, Hamilton, McDuffle, Poinsett, Tucker, Wilson.

*From Georgia.*—Messrs. Abbot, Cary, Cobb, Cuthbert, Forsyth, Thompson.

*From Kentucky.*—Messrs. Clay, Buckner, Henry, F. Johnson, J. T. Johnson, Letcher, Moore, Thompson, Trimble, White, Wickliffe.

*From Tennessee.*—Messrs. Alexander, Allen, Blair, Cocke, Houston, Isaacs, Reynolds, Sandford, Standifer.

*From Ohio.*—Messrs. Bartley, Beecher, Campbell, Gazlay, M'Arthur, M'Lane, Patterson, Sloane, Vance, Vinton, Whittlesey, Wilson, Wright.

*From Louisiana.*—Mr. Brent.

*From Mississippi.*—Mr. Rankin.

*From Indiana.*—Mr. Test.

*From Illinois.*—Mr. Cook.

*From Alabama.*—Mr. M'Kee and Mr. Moore.

*From Missouri.*—Mr. Scott.

*From Arkansas Territory.*—Mr. Conway.

After the Clerk had finished calling the Members by States, and a quorum was ascertained to be present,

Mr. TAYLOR, of New York, rose and remarked, that, it having been publicly announced that he was considered a candidate for the Speaker's Chair, and several Representatives having avowed their intention to vote in his favor; for the purpose of correcting any mistake upon this subject which might exist either here or elsewhere, he thought proper to state that he was not a candidate, and that, if his friends consulted his wishes, they would not, on this occasion, support him for the office. This frank declaration, he said, appeared to be due to the House and to those gentlemen who were understood to be candidates, as well as to himself.

The House then proceeded, by ballot, to the election of a Speaker, and, upon an examination of the ballots, it appeared that HENRY CLAY, one of the Representatives from the state of Kentucky had 130 votes, and that PHILIP P. BARBOUR, one of the Representatives from the state of Virginia, had received 42 votes.

Mr. CLAY was, therefore, declared to be duly elected, and conducted to the Speaker's chair, from whence he made acknowledgments to the House in the following terms:

*Gentlemen:* I pray you to accept my most respectful thanks for the honor which you have just conferred on me. The station of Speaker of this House has been always justly considered as one of great respectability and dignity, as well as of high responsibility. But at the present period, when we are assembled under a new census, with our number considerably enlarged, and the highest interests of a greatly augmented population committed to our charge, it has acquired much additional importance, which requires from the favored object of your selection his most grateful acknowledgments, and the expression of the profoundest sensibility. The principles which should regulate the execution of the duties of the incumbent of the chair are not difficult to comprehend, although their application to particular instances is often extremely delicate and perplexing.—They enjoin promptitude and impartiality in deciding the various questions of order, as they arise, firmness and dignity in his deportment towards the House, patience, good temper, and courtesy, towards the individual members, and the best arrangement and distribution of the talent of the House, in its numerous subdivisions, for the despatch of the public business, and the fair exhibition of every subject presented for consideration. They especially require of him, in those moments of agitation, from which no deliberative assembly is always entirely exempt, to remain cool and unshaken, amidst all the storms of debate, carefully guarding the preservation of the permanent laws and rules of the house, from being sacrificed to temporary passions, prejudices or interests. It is on such occasions as these, too, that the Chair stands most in need of your support, of your candor, of your liberality, of your unbiased judgment. I am not so presumptuous, gentlemen, as to promise you that I shall perform the arduous duties, of which I have presented an imperfect sketch. All I dare say is, that I will exert an anxious, faithful, and unremitting endeavor to fulfil the expectations by which I have been so much honored. And may we not indulge the hope, that, with the blessing of Divine Providence, all our deliberations and all our proceedings may tend to sustain the dignity of the House, to maintain the honor and character of the country, and to advance the public welfare and happiness.

The oath to support the Constitution of the United States, as prescribed by law, was then administered to the Speaker by Mr. NEWTON, one of the Representatives from Virginia, and the same oath, (or affirmation,) was then administered by the Speaker to all the other members present.

A motion was then made by Mr. CAMPBELL, of Ohio, that MATTHEW ST. CLAIR CLARKE, Clerk to the late House of Representatives, be appointed Clerk to this House; and the motion was agreed to, unanimously.

The oath to support the Constitution of the United States, together with the oath of office, as prescribed by the act aforesaid were then administered to the Clerk by the Speaker.

On motion of Mr. NEWTON, it was

*Resolved, unanimously,* That THOMAS DUNN be appointed Sergeant-at-arms, BENJAMIN BURCH Door-keeper, and JOHN OSWALD DUNN, Assistant Door-keeper to this House; and that they severally give their attendance accordingly.

On motion of Mr. TOMLINSON, it was

*Ordered,* That a message be sent to the Senate to inform them that a quorum of this House have assembled, and have elected HENRY CLAY their Speaker, and that this House is now ready to proceed to business; and that the Clerk do go with the said message.

On motion of Mr. NEWTON,

*Ordered,* That the daily hour to which the House shall stand adjourned be 12 o'clock until otherwise ordered.

On motion of Mr. LITTLE,

*Resolved,* That the Rules and Orders established by the late House of Representatives be deemed and taken to be the Rules and Orders of proceeding to be observed in this House, until a revision or alteration of the same shall have taken place.

On motion of Mr. NEWTON,

*Resolved,* That a Committee be appointed on the part of this House, to join such Committee as have been or may be appointed on the part of the Senate, to wait on the President of the United States, and inform him that a quorum of the two Houses have assembled, and are ready to receive any communications he may be pleased to make to them.

*Ordered,* That Mr. NEWTON and Mr. VAN RENNSLAER be the Committee on the part of the House, and that the Clerk do acquaint the Senate therewith.

On motion of Mr. ALLEN, of Mass.

*Resolved*, That the Clerk be directed to cause the Members to be furnished with such newspapers as they respectively may elect; the expense of each member not to exceed the price of three daily papers.

A message was received from the Senate by Mr. CURRIS, their Secretary, informing the House that a quorum of the Senate had assembled, and was ready to proceed to business; and that they have concurred in the resolution for the appointment of a Joint Committee to wait on the President of the United States, &c.

And then the House adjourned.

The PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES transmitted to both Houses of Congress, by the hands of his Private Secretary, the following

#### MESSAGE.

*Fellow-Citizens of the Senate  
and House of Representatives:*

Many important subjects will claim your attention during the present session, of which I shall endeavor to give, in aid of your deliberations, a just idea in this communication. I undertake this duty with diffidence, from the vast extent of the interests on which I have to treat, and of their great importance to every portion of our Union. I enter on it with zeal, from a thorough conviction that there never was a period, since the establishment of our revolution, when, regarding the condition of the civilized world, and its bearing on us, there was greater necessity for devotion in the public servants to their respective duties, or for virtue, patriotism, and union, in our constituents.

Meeting in you a new Congress, I deem it proper to present this view of public affairs in greater detail than might otherwise be necessary. I do it, however, with peculiar satisfaction, from a knowledge that, in this respect, I shall comply more fully with the sound principles of our government. The people being with us exclusively the sovereign, it is indispensable that full information be laid before them on all important subjects, to enable them to exercise that high power with complete effect. If kept in the dark, they must be incompetent to it. We are all liable to error, and those, who are engaged in the management of public affairs, are more subject to excitement, and to be led astray by their particular interests and passions, than the great body of our constituents, who, living at home, in the pursuit of their ordinary avocations, are calm but deeply interested spectators of events, and of the conduct of those who are parties to them. To the people, every department of the government, and every individual in each, are responsible; and the more full their information, the better they can judge of the wisdom of the policy pursued, and of the conduct of each in regard to it. From their dispassionate judgment, much aid may always be obtained, while their approbation will form the greatest incentive, and most gratifying reward for virtuous actions, and the dread of their censure the best security against the abuse of their confidence. Their interests, in all vital questions, are the same; and the bond by sentiment, as well as by interest, will be proportionably strengthened as they are better informed of the real state of public affairs, especially in difficult conjunctures. It is by such knowledge that local prejudices and jealousies are surmounted, and that a national policy, extending its fostering care and protection to all the great interests of our union, is formed and steadily adhered to.

A precise knowledge of our relations with foreign powers, as respects our negotiations and transactions with each, is thought to be particularly necessary. Equally necessary is it, that we should form a just estimate of our resources, revenue, and progress in every kind of improvement connected with the national prosperity and public defence. It is by rendering justice to other nations, that we may expect it from them. It is by our ability to resent injuries, and redress wrongs, that we may avoid them.

The Commissioners under the fifth article of the treaty of Ghent, having disagreed in their opinions respecting that portion of the boundary between the territories of the United States and of Great Britain, the establishment of which had been submitted to them, have made their respective reports, in compliance with that article, that the same might be referred to the decision of a friendly power. It being manifest, however, that it would be difficult, if not impossible, for any power to perform that office, without great delay and much inconvenience to itself, a proposal has been made by this

government, and acceded to by that of Great Britain, to endeavor to establish that boundary by amicable negotiation. It appearing, from long experience, that no satisfactory arrangement could be formed of the commercial intercourse between the United States and the British colonies in this hemisphere, by legislative acts, while each party pursued its own course, without agreement or concert with the other, a proposal has been made to the British government to regulate this commerce by treaty, as it has been to arrange in like manner, the just claim of the citizens of the United States, inhabiting the states and territories, bordering on the lakes and rivers which empty into the St. Lawrence, to the navigation of that river to the ocean. For these and other objects of high importance to the interests of both parties, a negotiation has been opened with the British government, which it is hoped, will have a satisfactory result.

The Commissioners, under the sixth and seventh articles of the treaty of Ghent, having successfully closed their labors in relation to the sixth, have proceeded to the discharge of those relating to the seventh. Their progress in the extensive survey, required for the performance of their duties, justifies the presumption that it will be completed in the ensuing year.

The negotiation which had been long depending with the French government on several important subjects, and particularly for a just indemnity for losses sustained in the late wars by the citizens of the United States, under unjustifiable seizures and confiscations of their property, has not, as yet, had the desired effect. As this claim rests on the same principle with others which have been admitted by the French government, it is not perceived on what just ground it can be rejected. A Minister will be immediately appointed to proceed to France, and resume the negotiation on this and other subjects which may arise between the two nations.

At the proposal of the Russian Imperial government, made through the Minister of the Emperor, residing here, a full power and instructions have been transmitted to the Minister of the United States at St. Petersburg, to arrange, by amicable negotiation, the respective rights and interests of the two nations on the north-west coast of this continent. A similar proposal had been made by his Imperial Majesty to the government of Great Britain, which has likewise been acceded to. The government of the United States has been desirous, by this friendly proceeding, of manifesting the great value which they have invariably attached to the friendship of the Emperor, and their solicitude to cultivate the best understanding with his government. In the discussions to which this interest has given rise, and in the arrangements by which they may terminate, the occasion has been judged proper, for asserting, as a principle in which the rights and interests of the United States are involved, that the American continents, by the free and independent condition which they have assumed and maintain, are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European powers.

Since the close of the last session of Congress, the commissioners and arbitrators for ascertaining and determining the amount of indemnification which may be due to citizens of the United States under the decision of his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Russia, in conformity to the convention concluded at St. Petersburg, on the twelfth of July, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-two, have assembled in this city, and organized themselves as a board for the performance of the duties assigned to them by that treaty. The commission constituted under the eleventh article of the treaty of the twenty-second of February, eighteen hundred and nineteen, between the United States and Spain, is also in session here; and, as the term of three years limited by the treaty, for the execution of the trust, will expire before the period of the next regular meeting of Congress, the attention of the Legislature will be drawn to the measures which may be necessary to accomplish the objects for which the commission was instituted.

In compliance with a Resolution of the House of Representatives, adopted at their last session, instructions have been given to all the Ministers of the United States, accredited to the powers of Europe and America, to propose the proscription of the African slave trade, by classing it under the denomination, and inflicting on its perpetrators the punishment of piracy. Should this proposal be acceded to, it is not doubted, that this odious and criminal practice will be promptly and entirely suppressed. It is earnestly hoped that it will be acceded to, from the firm belief that it is the most effectual expedient that can be adopted for the purpose.

At the commencement of the recent war between France and Spain, it was declared by the French government, that it would

grant no commissions to privateers, and that neither the commerce of Spain herself, nor of neutral nations, should be molested by the naval force of France, except in the breach of a lawful blockade. This declaration, which appears to have been faithfully carried into effect, concurring with principles proclaimed and cherished by the United States, from the first establishment of their independence, suggested by the hope that the time had arrived when the proposal for adopting it as a permanent and invariable rule, in all future maritime wars, might meet the favorable consideration of the great European powers. Instructions have accordingly been given to our ministers with France, Russia and Great-Britain, to make those proposals to their respective governments; and, when the friends of humanity reflect on the essential amelioration to the condition of the human race which would result from the abolition of private war on the sea, and on the great facility by which it might be accomplished, requiring only the consent of a few sovereigns, an earnest hope is indulged that these overtures will meet with an attention animated by the spirit in which they were made, and that they will ultimately be successful.

The Ministers who were appointed to the Republics of Colombia and Buenos Ayres, during the last session of Congress, proceeded shortly afterwards to their destinations. Of their arrival there, official intelligence has not yet been received. The Minister appointed to the Republic of Chili will sail in a few days. An early appointment will also be made to Mexico. A minister has been received from Colombia, and the other governments have been informed that Ministers, or Diplomatic Agents of inferior grade would be received from each, accordingly as they might prefer the one or the other.

The minister appointed to Spain proceeded, soon after his appointment, for Cadiz, the residence of the Sovereign, to whom he was accredited. In approaching that port, the frigate which conveyed him was warned off by the commander of the French squadron, by which it was blockaded, and not permitted to enter, although apprized, by the captain of the frigate, of the public character of the person whom he had on board, the landing of whom was the sole object of his proposed entry. This act, being considered an infringement of the rights of ambassadors, and of nations, will form a just cause of complaint, to the government of France, against the officer by whom it was commanded.

The actual condition of the public finances more than realizes the favorable anticipations that were entertained of it at the opening of the last session of Congress. On the first of January there was a balance in the Treasury of four million two hundred and thirty-seven thousand four hundred and twenty-seven dollars and fifty-five cents. From that time to the thirtieth September, the receipts amounted to upwards of sixteen millions one hundred thousand dollars, and the expenditures to eleven millions four hundred thousand dollars. During the fourth quarter of the year, it is estimated, that the receipts will, at least, equal the expenditures, and that there will remain in the Treasury on the first day of January next a surplus of nearly nine millions of dollars.

On the first of January, eighteen hundred and twenty-five, a large amount of the war debt, and a part of the Revolutionary debt, became redeemable. Additional portions of the former will continue to become redeemable, annually, until the year eighteen hundred and thirty-five. It is believed, however, that, if the United States remain at peace, the whole of that debt may be redeemed, by the ordinary revenue of those years during that period, under the provision of the act of March third, eighteen hundred and seventeen, creating the sinking fund, and, in that case, the only part of the debt that will remain, after the year eighteen hundred and thirty-five, will be the seven millions of five per cent. stock subscribed to the Bank of the United States, and the three per cent. Revolutionary debt, amounting to thirteen millions two hundred and ninety-six thousand and ninety-nine dollars and six cents, both of which are redeemable at the pleasure of the government.

The state of the army in its organization and discipline, has been gradually improving for several years, and has now attained a high degree of perfection. The Military disbursements have been regularly made, and the accounts regularly and promptly rendered for settlement. The supplies of various descriptions, have been of good quality, and regularly issued at all of the posts. A system of economy and accountability has been introduced into every branch of the service, which admits of little additional improvement. This desirable state has been attained by the act reorganizing the staff of the army, passed on the fourteenth of April eighteen hundred and eighteen.

The moneys appropriated for fortifications have been regularly and economically applied, and all the works advanced as rapidly as the amount appropriated would admit. Three important works will be completed in the course of this year: that is, Fort Washington, Fort Delaware, and the Fort at the Rigolets, in Louisiana.

The Board of Engineers, and the Topographical Corps, have been in constant and active service, in surveying the Coast, and projecting the works necessary for its defence.

The Military Academy has attained a degree of perfection in its discipline and instruction, equal, as is believed, to any institution of its kind in any country.

The money appropriated for the use of the Ordnance Department, has been regularly and economically applied. The fabrication of arms at the national armories, and by contract with the Department, has been gradually improving in quality and cheapness. It is believed that their quality is now such as to admit of but little improvement.

The completion of the Fortifications renders it necessary that there should be a suitable appropriation for the purpose of fabricating the cannon and carriages necessary for those works.

Under the appropriation of five thousand dollars for exploring the western waters for the location of a site for a Western Armory, a commission was constituted, consisting of Colonel M'REE, Colonel LEE, and Captain TALCOTT, who have been engaged in exploring the country. They have not yet reported the result of their labours, but it is believed that they will be prepared to do it, at an early part of the Session of Congress.

During the month of June last, General Ashley and his party, who were trading under a license from the government, were attacked by the Ricarees while peacefully trading with the Indians, at their request. Several of the party were killed and wounded and their property taken or destroyed.

Colonel Leavenworth, who commanded Fort Atkinson, at the Council Bluffs, the most western post, apprehending that the hostile spirit of the Ricarees would extend to other tribes in that quarter, and that thereby the lives of the traders on the Missouri, and the peace of the frontier, would be endangered, took immediate measures to check the evil.

With a detachment of the regiment stationed at the Bluffs, he successfully attacked the Ricaree village, and it is hoped that such an impression has been made on them, as well as on the other tribes on the Missouri, as will prevent a recurrence of future hostility.

The report of the Secretary of War, which is herewith transmitted, will exhibit, in greater detail, the condition of the Department in its various branches, and the progress which has been made in its administration, during the three first quarters of the year.

I transmit a return of the militia of the several states, according to the last reports which have been made, by the proper officers in each, to the Department of War. By reference to this return it will be seen that it is not complete, although great exertions have been made to make it so. As the defence, and even the liberties of the country must depend, in times of imminent danger, on the militia, it is of the highest importance, that it be well organized, armed, and disciplined throughout the Union. The report of the Secretary of War shews the progress made during the three first quarters of the present year, by the application of the fund appropriated for arming the militia. Much difficulty is found in distributing the arms according to the act of Congress providing for it, from the failure of the proper Departments in many of the states to make regular returns. The act of May the twelfth, one thousand eight hundred and twenty, provides that the system of tactics and regulations of the various corps of the regular army shall be extended to the militia. This act has been very imperfectly executed, from the want of uniformity in the organization of the militia, proceeding from the defects of the system itself, and especially in its application to that main arm of the public defence. It is thought that this important subject, in all its branches, merits the attention of Congress.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy, which is now communicated, furnishes an account of the administration of that Department, for the three first quarters of the present year, with the progress made in augmenting the Navy, and the manner in which the vessels in commission have been employed.

The usual force has been maintained in the Mediterranean Sea, the Pacific Ocean and along the Atlantic Coast, and has afforded the necessary protection to our commerce in those seas.

In the West Indies and the Gulph of Mexico, our naval force has been augmented, by the addition of several small vessels, provided

for by the "act authorizing an additional naval force for the suppression of piracy," passed by Congress at their last session. That armament has been eminently successful in the accomplishment of its object. The piracies, by which our commerce in the neighborhood of the Island of Cuba had been afflicted, have been repressed, and the confidence of our merchants in a great measure restored.

The patriotic zeal and enterprise of Commodore Porter, to whom the command of the expedition was confided, has been fully seconded by the officers and men, under his command. And, in reflecting, with high satisfaction, on the honourable manner in which they have sustained the reputation of their country and its navy, the sentiment is alloyed only by a concern, that, in the fulfilment of that arduous service, the diseases incident to the season, and to the climate in which it was discharged, have deprived the nation of many useful lives, and among them of several officers of great promise.

In the month of August a very malignant fever made its appearance at Thompson's Island, which threatened the destruction of our station there. Many perished; and the commanding officer was severely attacked. Uncertain as to his fate, and knowing that most of the medical officers had been rendered incapable of discharging their duties, it was thought expedient to send to that post an officer of rank and experience, with several skilful surgeons to ascertain the origin of the fever and the probability of its recurrence there in future seasons; to furnish every assistance to those who were suffering, and, if practicable, to avoid the necessity of abandoning so important a station. Commodore Rodgers, with a promptitude which did him honour, cheerfully accepted that trust, and has discharged it in the manner anticipated from his skill and patriotism. Before his arrival, Commodore Porter, with the greater part of the squadron, had removed from the Island, and returned to the United States in consequence of the prevailing sickness. Much useful information has however been obtained, as to the state of the Island, and great relief afforded to those who had been necessarily left there.

Although our expedition, co-operating with an invigorated administration of the government of the Island of Cuba, and with the corresponding active exertions of a British naval force in the same seas, have almost entirely destroyed the unlicensed piracies from that island, the success of our exertions has not been equally effectual to suppress the same crime, under other pretences and colors, in the neighbouring island of Porto Rico. They have been committed there under the abusive issue of Spanish commissions. At an early period of the present year, remonstrances were made to the Governor of that island, by an agent who was sent for the purpose, against those outrages on the peaceful commerce of the United States, of which many had occurred. That officer, professing his own want of authority to make satisfaction for our just complaints, answered only by a reference of them to the government of Spain. The minister of the United States to that court was specially instructed to urge the necessity of the immediate and effectual interposition of that government, directing restitution and indemnity for wrongs already committed, and interdicting the repetition of them. The minister, as has been seen, was debarred access to the Spanish government, and, in the mean time, several new cases of flagrant outrage have occurred, and citizens of the United States in the island of Porto Rico have suffered, and others have been threatened with, assassination, for asserting their unquestionable rights, even before the lawful tribunals of the country.

The usual orders have been given to all our public ships, to seize American vessels engaged in the Slave trade, and bring them in for adjudication, and I have the gratification to state, that not one so employed has been discovered, and there is good reason to believe that our flag is now seldom, if at all, disgraced by that traffic.

It is a source of great satisfaction that we are always enabled to recur to the conduct of our Navy with pride and commendation. As a means of national defence, it enjoys the public confidence, and is steadily assuming additional importance. It is submitted whether a more efficient and equally economical organization of it, might not, in several respects, be effected. It is supposed that higher grades than now exist by law would be useful. They would afford well merited rewards to those who have long and faithfully served their country; present the best incentives to good conduct, and the best means of insuring a proper discipline; destroy the inequality in that respect between military and naval services, and relieve our officers from many inconveniences and mortifications, which occur when our vessels meet those of other nations—ours being the only service in which such grades do not exist.

A report of the Post-Master General, which accompanies this communication, will shew the present state of the Post-Office Department, and its general operations for some years past.

There is established, by law, eighty-eight thousand six hundred miles of post roads, on which the mail is now transported eighty-five thousand seven hundred miles, and contracts have been made for its transportation on all the established routes, with one or two exceptions. There are five thousand two hundred and forty post offices in the Union, and as many post masters. The gross amount of postage which accrued from the first of July, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-two, to the first of July, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-three was one million one hundred and fourteen thousand three hundred and forty-five dollars, twelve cents. During the same period, the expenditures of the Post Office Department amounted to one million one hundred and sixty-nine thousand eight hundred and eighty-five dollars and fifty one cents; and consisted of the following items. Compensation to Postmasters, three hundred and fifty-three thousand nine hundred and ninety-five dollars and ninety-eight cents; incidental expenses, thirty thousand eight hundred and sixty-six dollars and thirty-seven cents: transportation of the mail, seven hundred and eighty-four thousand six hundred dollars and eight cents; payments into the Treasury, four hundred and twenty-three dollars and eight cents. On the first of July last, there was due to the Department, from Postmasters, one hundred and thirty five thousand two hundred and forty-five dollars and twenty-eight cents; from late postmasters and contractors, two hundred and fifty-six thousand seven hundred and forty-nine dollars and thirty-one cents; making a total amount of balances due to the Department, of three hundred and ninety-one thousand nine hundred and ninety-four dollars and fifty-nine cents, these balances embrace all delinquencies of postmasters and contractors, which have taken place since the organization of the Department. There was due by the Department, to contractors, on the first of July last, twenty six thousand five hundred and forty-eight dollars and sixty-four cents.

The transportation of the mail, within five years past has been greatly extended, and the expenditures of the department proportionably increased. Although the postage, which has accrued within the last three years, has fallen short of the expenditures two hundred and sixty-two thousand eight hundred and twenty-one dollars and forty-six cents, it appears that collections have been made from the outstanding balances to meet the principal part of the current demands.

It is estimated that not more than two hundred and fifty thousand dollars of the above balances can be collected, and that a considerable part of this sum can only be realized by a resort to legal process. Some improvement in the receipts for postage is expected. A prompt attention to the collection of moneys received by postmasters, it is believed will enable the department to continue its operations without aid from the Treasury, unless the expenditure shall be increased by the establishment of new mail routes.

A revision of some parts of the post office law may be necessary; and it is submitted, whether it would not be proper to provide for the appointment of post masters, where the compensation exceeds a certain amount, by nomination to the Senate, as other officers of the general government are appointed.

Having communicated my views to Congress at the commencement of the last session, respecting the encouragement which ought to be given to our manufactures, and the principal on which it should be founded, I have only to add that those views remain unchanged, and that the present state of those countries, with which we have the most immediate political relations and greatest commercial intercourse, tends to confirm them. Under this impression, I recommend a review of the tariff for the purpose of affording such additional protection to those articles which we are prepared to manufacture, or which are more immediately connected with the defence and independence of the country.

The actual state of the public accounts furnishes additional evidence of the efficiency of the present system of accountability in relation to the public expenditure. Of the moneys drawn from the Treasury since the fourth of March, eighteen hundred and seventeen, the sum remaining unaccounted for on the thirtieth of Sept. last, is more than a million and a half of dollars less than on the thirtieth of September preceding; and, during the same period, a reduction of nearly a million of dollars has been made in the amount of the unsettled accounts for moneys advanced pre-

viously to the fourth of March, eighteen hundred and seventeen. It will be obvious that, in proportion as the mass of accounts of the latter description is diminished, by settlement, the difficulty of settling the residue is increased, from the consideration that, in many instances, it can be obtained only by legal process. For more precise details on this subject, I refer to a report from the First Comptroller of the Treasury.

The sum which was appropriated at the last session, for the repairs of the Cumberland road, has been applied with good effect to that object. A final report has not yet been received from the agent who was appointed to superintend it. As soon as it is received, it shall be communicated to Congress.

Many patriotic and enlightened citizens, who have made the subject an object of particular investigation, have suggested an improvement of still greater importance. They are of opinion that the waters of the Chesapeake and Ohio may be connected together by one continued canal, and at an expense far short of the value and importance of the object to be obtained. If this could be accomplished, it is impossible to calculate the beneficial consequences which would result from it. A great portion of the produce of very fertile country through which it would pass, would find a market through that channel. Troops might be moved with great facility in war, with cannon, and every kind of munition, and in either direction. Connecting the Atlantic with the western country, in a line passing through the seat of the national government, it would contribute essentially to strengthen the bond of Union itself. Believing as I do, that Congress possess the right to appropriate money for such a national object, (the jurisdiction remaining to the states through which the canal would pass, I submit it to your consideration whether it may not be advisable to authorize, by an adequate appropriation, the employment of a suitable number of the officers of the corps of engineers, to examine the unexplored ground, during the next season, and to report their opinion thereon. It will likewise be proper to extend their examination to the several routes through which the waters of the Ohio may be connected, by canals, with those of Lake Erie.

As the cumberland road will require annual repairs, and Congress have not thought it expedient to recommend to the states an amendment to the constitution, for the purpose of vesting in the United States a power to adopt and execute a system of internal improvement, it is also submitted to your consideration, whether it may not be expedient to authorize the Executive to enter into an arrangement with the several states through which the road passes, to establish tolls, each within its limits, for the purpose of defraying the expense of future repairs, and of providing, also, by suitable penalties, for its protection against future injuries.

The act of Congress of the seventh of May, one thousand eight hundred and twenty two, appropriated the sum of twenty two thousand seven hundred dollars for the purpose of erecting two piers as a shelter to vessels from ice, near Cape Henlopen, Delaware Bay. To effect the object of the act, the officers of the board of Engineers, with Commodore Bainbridge, were directed to prepare plans and estimates of piers sufficient to answer the purpose intended by the act. It appears by their report which accompanies the document from the War Department, that the appropriation is not adequate to the purpose intended; and, as the piers would be of great service, both to the navigation of the Delaware Bay, and the protection of vessels on the adjacent parts of the coast, I submit for the consideration of Congress whether additional and sufficient appropriations should not be made.

The board of Engineers were also directed to examine and survey the entrance of the harbor of the port of Presqu'isle in Pennsylvania, in order to make an estimate of the expense of removing the obstructions to the entrance, with a plan of the best mode of effecting the same under the appropriation for that purpose by an act of Congress passed third of March last. The report of the Board accompanies the papers from the War Department, and is submitted for the consideration of Congress.

A strong hope has been long entertained, founded on the heroic struggle of the Greeks, that they would succeed in their contest, and resume their equal station among the nations of the earth. It is believed that the whole civilized world takes a deep interest in their welfare. Although no power has declared in their favor, yet none, according to our information, has taken part against them. Their cause and their name have protected them from dangers, which might ere this have overwhelmed any

other people. The ordinary calculations of interest, and of acquisition, with a view to aggrandizement, which mingle so much in the transactions of nations, seem to have had no effect in regard to them. From the facts which have come to our knowledge, there is good cause to believe that their enemy has lost forever all dominion over them; that Greece will become again an independent nation. That she may obtain that rank is the object of our most ardent wishes.

It was stated at the commencement of the last session, that a great effort was then making in Spain and Portugal to improve the condition of the people of those countries; and that it appeared to be conducted with extraordinary moderation. It need scarcely be remarked, that the result has been, so far, very different from what was then anticipated. Of events in that quarter of the globe with which we have so much intercourse, and from which we derive our origin, we have always been anxious and interested spectators. The citizens of the United States cherish sentiments the most friendly, in favor of the liberty and happiness of their fellow men on that side of the Atlantic. In the wars of the European powers, in matters relating to themselves, we have never taken any part, nor does it comport with our policy so to do. It is only when our rights are invaded, or seriously menaced, that we resent injuries, or make preparation for our defence. With the movements in this hemisphere, we are, of necessity, more immediately connected, and by causes which must be obvious to all enlightened and impartial observers. The political system of the allied powers is essentially different, in this respect, from that of America. This difference proceeds from that which exists in their respective governments. And to the defence of our own, which has been achieved by the loss of so much blood and treasure, and matured by the wisdom of their most enlightened citizens, and under which we have enjoyed unexampled felicity, this whole nation is devoted. We owe it therefore to candor, and to the amicable relations existing between the United States and those powers, to declare, that we should consider any attempt, on their part, to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere, as dangerous to our peace and safety. With the existing colonies or dependencies of any European power, we have not interfered, and shall not interfere. But with the governments who have declared their independence, and maintained it, and whose independence we have, on great consideration and on just principles, acknowledged, we could not view any interposition for the purpose of oppressing them, or controlling, in any other manner, their destiny, by any European power, in any other light than as the manifestation of an unfriendly disposition towards the United States. In the war between those new governments and Spain, we declared our neutrality at the time of their recognition, and to this we have adhered, and shall continue to adhere, provided no change shall occur, which, in the judgment of the competent authorities of this government, shall make a corresponding change on the part of the United States indispensable to their security.

The late events in Spain and Portugal shew that Europe is still unsettled. Of this important fact, no stronger proof can be adduced, than that the allied powers should have thought it proper, on any principles satisfactory to themselves, to have interposed, by force, in the internal concerns of Spain. To what extent such interposition may be carried, on the same principle, is a question in which all independent powers, whose governments differ from theirs, are interested; even those most remote, and surely none more so than the United States. Our policy in regard to Europe, which was adopted at the early stage of the war, which have so long agitated that quarter of the globe, nevertheless remains the same, which is, not to interfere in the internal concerns of any of its powers; to consider the government *de facto* as the legitimate government for us; to cultivate friendly relations with it, and to preserve those relations by a frank, firm, and manly policy, meeting in all instances the just claims of every power; submitting to injuries from none. But in regard to these continents, circumstances are eminently and conspicuously different. It is impossible that the allied powers should extend their political system, to any portion of either continent without endangering our peace and happiness; nor can any one believe that our southern brethren, if left to themselves, would adopt it of their own accord. It is equally impossible, therefore, that we should behold such interposition, in any form, with indifference. If we look to the comparative strength and resources of Spain and those new governments, and their distance from each other,

it must be obvious that she can never subdue them. It is still the true policy of the United States to leave the parties to themselves, in the hope that other powers will pursue the same course.

If we compare the present condition of our Union, with its actual state at the close of our revolution, the history of the world furnishes no example of a progress in improvement, in all the important circumstances which constitute the happiness of a nation, which bears any resemblance to it. At the first epoch our population did not exceed three millions. By the last census it amounted to about ten millions, and what is more extraordinary, it is almost altogether native, for the emigration from other countries has been inconsiderable. At the first epoch, half the territory within our acknowledged limits was uninhabited and a wilderness. Since then, new territory has been acquired, of vast extent, comprising within it many rivers, particularly the Mississippi, the navigation of which to the ocean was of the highest importance to the original states. Over this territory our population has expanded in every direction, and new States have been established, almost equal, in number, to those which formed the first bond of our Union. This expansion of our population, and accession of new States to our Union, have had the happiest effect on all its highest interests. That it has eminently augmented our resources and added to our strength and respectability, as a power, is admitted by all. But, it is not in these important circumstances only, that this happy effect is felt. It is manifest that, by enlarging the basis of our system, and increasing the number of states, the system itself has been greatly strengthened in both its branches. Consolidation and disunion have thereby been rendered equally impracticable. Each government confiding in its own strength, has less to apprehend from the other; and, in consequence each enjoying a greater freedom of action, is rendered more efficient for all the purposes for which it was instituted. It is unnecessary to treat, here, of the vast improvement made in the system itself, by the adoption of this constitution, and of its happy effect in elevating the character, and in protecting the rights of the nation, as well as of individuals. To what then do we owe these blessings? It is known to all, that we derive them from the excellence of our institutions. Ought we not then to adopt every measure which may be necessary to perpetuate them?

JAMES MONROE.

WASHINGTON, December 2, 1823.

**LIST OF REPORTS** to be made to the House of Representatives, at the First Session of the Eighteenth Congress, by the Executive Departments: prepared in obedience to a standing rule of the House of Representatives: (and stating the times at each report is expected to be made.)

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

A return of the militia of the United States, with their arms and accoutrements. *Expected to be made on the 1st of February.*

A statement of the amount, with a description, of the coins struck at the mint, during the year 1823. *In January.*

**NOTE.** This statement is annually made by the Director of the Mint to the President, and by him transmitted to Congress; no law or resolution can, however, be found, requiring it to be made.

A report upon the state of the public buildings. *December.*

**Special Call.** The number and position of the permanent fortifications which have been or are erecting for the defence of the coast, harbors, and frontiers of the United States; in which those on the sea-coast, and those on the frontier, are to be distinguished in separate classes, and shewing the state in which each is situated; when begun and when finished, with the magnitude of each; the aggregate amount expended in erecting such as are completed; the amount of repairs since made; the amount expended on those now erecting, and the estimates to complete the same. In making which report, a reference is to be had to the work actually done, and to be done, and not by merely subtracting the sums actually expended from the estimates formerly made: which report must also state the number of guns, of every calibre, for each fortification; the total cost of a complete armament for each; the force required to garrison each in time of peace; the same in time of war; noting those actually occupied, and with what force. *In the course of the session.*

BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

Abstracts of the returns made by collectors, of the registered seamen of the United States. *Early in January.*

An abstract of patents issued during the year 1823, for inventions and improvements. *Early in January.*

A register of all officers and agents, civil and military, in the service of the United States, (furnished biennially; the next to be for the year 1824.) *Early in December.*

A list of the names of the clerks employed in the Department of State, during the year 1823, with the compensation of each. *Early in January.*

A list of passengers arriving in the United States from foreign countries, during the year 1823. *Early in January.*

BY THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

A report upon the state of the finances, embracing a general view of the revenue and expenditures of the United States for the year 1824. *Early in December.*

An estimate of the appropriations necessary to be made for the service of the year 1824, with a statement of the appropriations heretofore made applicable to the service of this year; and a statement of the appropriations of former years, with an estimate of those items which will not be required to defray expenses incurred in a former year. *Early in January.*

An account of the receipts and expenditures of the U. States for the year 1822. *Early in December.*

An account of the receipts and expenditures at the Mint, with an account, also, of its transactions during the 1823. *In February.*

An abstract of the tonnage of the ships and vessels of the U. States on the 31st December, 1822. *Early in January.*

**NOTE.** There is no law or resolution requiring this abstract to be furnished to Congress. It has, however, been made annually since 1797; previous to which time it was furnished occasionally under special orders of the House.

Statements of the amount of duties accruing, and drawback payable on merchandise exported from the United States, during the years 1820, 1821, and 1822. *In February.*

Statements of the result of the assays made at the Mint in 1823, of certain foreign coins. *Early in January.*

Statements of the payments made at the Treasury, in 1823, for the discharge of miscellaneous claims not otherwise provided for. Statement of contracts and purchases made by collectors for the revenue service in 1823. Statement of the contracts made by direction of the Treasury Department in 1823. Statement of the amount of the expenditures for the relief of sick and disabled seamen in 1821. *Early in January, and are included in one report.*

**NOTE.** No authority is found for making this statement.

Statement of the amount of Direct Tax and Internal Duties, collected in 1822. *Early in December.*

A list of the names of the persons employed as clerks in the several offices of the Treasury Department, in 1823, with the pay of each. *Early in January.*

Statements showing the Commerce and Navigation of the U. States, for the year 1823. *Early in December.*

A report of such claims to lands in the territory of Florida as are undefined in quantity, or exceed three thousand five hundred acres each, with the evidence in support of such claims, and the opinion of the commissioners appointed to ascertain claims and titles to land in Florida, on every such claim. *It is not known that any such report as this will be made at this session.*

A Detail of the proceedings of the commissioners appointed to ascertain claims and titles to land in Florida. *It is not known that any such report as this will be made at this session.*

SPECIAL REPORTS TO BE MADE BY THE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

A report of the commissioners appointed to ascertain and decide on claims to land in the district of Detroit, and at Green Bay and Prairie du Chein. *In the course of the session.*

A report of the result of the assays of certain gold coins, which are receivable in payment for public lands. *In the course of the session.*

A report showing the limit and extent of a title, granted by the Spanish government to John Filhiol. *In the course of the session.*

BY THE COMPTROLLER OF THE TREASURY.

Statements showing the official emoluments and expenditures of the officers employed in the collection of the customs. *Early in February.*

Statements of the accounts in the Treasury, War, and Navy Departments, which have remained more than three years unsettled, or on which balances have been due more than three years. *Early in December.*

A list of such officers as have not settled their accounts within the year, for moneys advanced one year prior to the 30th Sept. 1822. *Early in Dec.*

#### BY THE TREASURER OF THE UNITED STATES.

Statements of his accounts, with an account of the state of the Treasury. *Early in December.*

#### BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE SINKING FUND.

A report of all their proceedings during the year 1823. *1st week in February.*

#### BY THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

A statement of contracts made by the various branches of the War Department, on behalf of the United States, during the year 1823. *Early in January.*

A statement of the expenditure of the moneys appropriated for the contingent expenses of the military establishment for the year 1823. *Early in January.*

A list containing the names of the persons employed as clerks in the various offices of the War Department, during the year 1823, with the compensation of each. *Early in January.*

A statement showing the appropriations for the military service for the year 1823, with the expenditure under each specific head; and the balance of the several appropriations unexpended at the end of the year, with an estimate of the probable demands which may remain on each of such balances. *1st February.*

An abstract of licences granted for carrying on trade with the Indians. *In January.*

Copies of the accounts of Indian agents, superintendents, and others, charged with the disbursement of money, goods, or effects of any kind, for the benefit of Indians; with a list of the names of such agents, or other persons; showing, also, who are delinquent, if any, in the settlement of their accounts. *In January.*

#### BY THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

A statement of the contracts made by the Navy Department, on behalf of the United States, in 1823. *Early in January.*

A statement of the expenditure of the money appropriated for the contingent expenses of the Naval establishment during the year 1823. *Early in January.*

A register of the officers of the Navy and of the Marine corps. *Early in January.*

A list containing the names of the persons employed as clerks in the Naval Department in 1823, with the compensation of each. *Early in January.*

A statement showing the appropriations for the naval service for the year 1823, with the expenditure under each specific head, and the balance of the several appropriations unexpended at the close of the year, with an estimate of the probable demands which may remain on each of such balances. *1st February.*

#### BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NAVY PENSION FUND.

A minute statement of all their proceedings relative to the management of the fund placed under their control. *1st week in the session.*

#### BY THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.

A statement of contracts made at his department on behalf of the United States, in the year 1823. *Early in January.*

A list of such post routes as have been established more than two years, and have not, in the last year, produced one third part of the expense of transporting the mail on the same. *In Feb.*

A list of the names of the persons employed as clerks in the General Post Office in the year 1823, with the pay of each. *Early in January.*

#### SPECIAL REPORT TO BE MADE BY THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.

A report of the measures necessary to provide for a more equitable compensation to deputy Post masters, according to the duties and services rendered by them. *Early in the session.*

#### BY THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE AND CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, RESPECTIVELY.

A report showing the names and compensation of the clerks

employed in their respective offices, with the names and compensation of the messengers employed in the service of the Senate and House of Representatives, accompanied with a detailed statement of the expenditure of the fund appropriated for the contingent expenses of the respective Houses, for the year 1823. *Early in the session.*

#### TRANSFERS.

If any transfers of the appropriations made for any department or branches of the government, shall have been made, by order of the President of the United States, during the recess of Congress, it is made the duty of the Head of the Department in which such transfer shall have been made, to report to Congress, during the first week of the session, a special account of the moneys thus transferred, with their application.

#### RULES OF CONGRESS.

##### *Rules for Conducting Business in the Senate of the United States.*

1. The President having taken the chair, and a quorum being present, the journal of the preceding day shall be read, to the end that any mistake may be corrected that shall be made in the entries.

2. No member shall speak to another, or otherwise interrupt the business of the Senate, or read any newspaper, while the journals or public papers are reading, or when any member is speaking in any debate.

3. Every member, when he speaks, shall address the chair, standing in his place, and, when he has finished, shall sit down.

4. No member shall speak more than twice, in any one debate, on the same day, without leave of the Senate.

5. When two members rise at the same time, the President shall name the person to speak; but in all cases the member first rising shall speak first.

6. When a member shall be called to order, he shall sit down until the President shall have determined whether he is in order or not; and every question of order shall be decided by the President without debate; but, if there be a doubt in his mind, he may call for the sense of the Senate.

7. If the member be called to order for words spoken, the exceptionable words shall immediately be taken down in writing, that the President may be better enabled to judge of the matter.

8. No member shall absent himself from the service of the Senate, without leave of the Senate first obtained. And in case a less number than a quorum of the Senate shall convene, they are hereby authorized to send the sergeant at arms, or any other person or persons by them authorized, for any or all absent members, as the majority of such members present shall agree, at the expense of such absent members respectively, unless such excuse for non-attendance shall be made, as the Senate, when a quorum is convened, shall judge sufficient; and in that case the expenses shall be paid out of the contingent fund. And this rule shall apply as well to the first convention of the Senate at the legal time of meeting, as to each day of the session, after the hour has arrived to which the Senate stood adjourned.

9. No motion shall be debated until the same shall be seconded.

10. When a motion shall be made and seconded, it shall be reduced to writing, if desired by the President, or any member, delivered in at the table, and read, before the same shall be debated.

11. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received but to adjourn, to lie on the table, to postpone indefinitely, to postpone to a day certain, to commit, or to amend; which several motions shall have precedence in the order they stand arranged, and the motion for adjournment shall always be in order, and be decided without debate.

12. If the question in debate contains several points, any member may have the same divided.

13. In filling up blanks, the largest sum and longest time shall be first put.

14. When the reading of a paper is called for, and the same is objected to by any member, it shall be determined by a vote of the Senate, and without debate.

15. The unfinished business in which the Senate was engaged at the last preceding adjournment, shall have the preference in the orders of the day; and no motion on any other business shall be received, without special leave of the Senate, until the former is disposed of.

16. When the yeas and nays shall be called for by one-fifth of the members present, each member called upon shall, unless for special reason be excused by the Senate, declare openly, and without debate, his assent or dissent to the question. In taking the yeas and nays, and upon the call of the House, the names of the members shall be taken alphabetically.

17. On a motion made and seconded to shut the doors of the Senate, on the discussion of any business which may, in the opinion of a member, require secrecy, the President shall direct the gallery to be cleared; and, during the discussion of such motion, the doors shall remain shut.

18. No motion shall be deemed in order to admit any person or persons, whatsoever, within the doors of the Senate chamber, to present any petition, memorial, or address, or to hear any such read.

19. When a question has been once made and carried in the affirmative or negative, it shall be in order for any member of the majority to move for the reconsideration thereof; but no motion for the reconsideration of any vote shall be in order after a bill, resolution, message, report, amendment, or motion upon which the vote was taken, shall have gone out of the possession of the Senate, announcing their decision; nor shall any motion for reconsideration be in order, unless made on the same day on which the vote was taken, or within the two next days of the actual session of the Senate thereafter.

{To be Continued}